MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC NEWS

<u>April 2015 – Our next regular meeting will be held Thursday, April 16, 7 PM at Mayfair Mall community room, lower level. Our MNS Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge Clinic will be held on Saturday morning Mar. 21, Clinic volunteers should be on hand at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 6401 S. 13th St. at 7 AM.</u>

The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, founded in 1934, is the oldest and largest organization in Milwaukee devoted to the study of money. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month in the Community Room on the lower level of Mayfair Mall (W. North Avenue at N. Mayfair Road).

President:	Justin Perrault	**Vice President:**	Jim Heinrich
Secretary:	Joe Paonessa	**Treasurer:**	Lee Hartz
Sgt. at Arms:	Jeff Gaffke	**Trustee '15-'17:**	Tom Dallmann
Trustee '14-'16:	Leon Saryan	**Trustee '13-'15:**	Gary Bieringer
Librarian:	Joe Paonessa	**Newsletter editor:**	Leon Saryan

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<u>April Coin of the Month:</u> For April, we have a 1973-S "Blue Ike" uncirculated silver dollar as packaged by the US Mint. Flawless coin in original packaging. Catalogs at $14 in the Red Book with silver value about $6. Bidding will start at just $5 for this exceptional coin.

April 2015 MNS President's Message

I am happy to report that at the Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge Clinic on the week-end of March 21st approximately thirty-six Scouts attended and earned the Merit Badge. Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this event another smooth success. None of this could have been possible without the efforts Clinic Chairman Leon, our many volunteers, and of course those who donated materials.

At the last meeting we passed around a sign-up sheet for club members and guests that might be interested in joining the bus trip to the CSNS show in Schaumburg later in April. We currently have eighteen individuals signed up, and there are room for thirty-three on the coach bus. I would like to obtain as firm a count as possible so as not to risk leaving anyone behind that morning. Please remember, the cost of the bus trip is free for all MNS members. For non-member guests the cost would run $10 payable the morning of departure.

I realize that this point has been addressed in several of the past newsletters but it really does bear repeating. The May 23rd CSNS Educational Seminar on paper money is approaching. Please be sure to register for this educational clinic by sending in the form and payment to CSNS Educational Director Ray Lockwood. They require a firm number of attendees in order to know how much food to order. At a cost of only $20 for CSNS members, the cost to benefit ratio on this event really cannot be beat. If you are not yet a member of Central States, this presents you with a perfect opportunity to join.

This year's National Coin Week (April 19-25) is "Building Tomorrows: Inspiration and Innovation at World's Fairs." The centennial celebration of the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition is the perfect springboard to use given its tremendous history surrounding art, sculpture, and design. After all, the artists James Earle Fraser, Adolph Weinman, and Augustus Saint-Gaudens were all in attendance to showcase their work.

As in years past the ANA has a number of publicity minded events scheduled for that last full week of April. I would encourage all of our members to pass along their knowledge of numismatics to anyone they meet who might be interested, not just during this week but throughout the entire year. It is not too much of a stretch to say that a numismatic correlation could be made with almost any conversation. We are surrounded by the arts, commerce, and historical references on a daily basis, any of which could be connected to a numismatic theme in multiple ways.

Happy Collecting,
Justin J. Perrault
masters1122@yahoo.com
262.785.7663

MN$ 2015

Schedule

Monthly meetings in 2015 are held at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. Visitors interested in numismatics are welcome.

Monthly meeting programs

Jan 15:	Officer Inductions; Photograding Flying Eagle & Indian Cents by Darrell L.
Feb 19:	Outdated/Low Value Book Dispersal
March 19:	Open
April 16:	Open
May 21:	Open
June 18:	Spring Auction
July 16:	Bob Burlingame "Diving Expedition Treasure Finds"
Aug 20:	Club Outing
Sept 17:	Educational Video Viewing
Oct 15:	Numismatic Trivia Game
Nov 19:	Autumn Auction
Dec 17:	Holiday Party; Officer Elections

Annual Dues

Dues for 2015 are $10. Please pay at the next meeting, or they may be mailed to MNS, PO Box 241174, Milwaukee, WI 53224. Thanks to those who have paid.

PLEASE NOTE:

MNS is a volunteer organization. We always need new and interesting programs, activities, helpers to work at events, and someone to bring refreshments for the meetings. We are also looking for ideas for club outings. MNS will reimburse refreshment expenses up to $50. To volunteer, please contact Pres. Justin Perrault at 262.785.7663 or VP Jim Heinrich at 262.796.1814. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up by volunteering their time and talent to make this club a success.

2015 Numismatic Events

April 9-12	Chicago Int'l Coin Fair (CICF) Crown Plaza Chicago O'Hare Rosemont, IL
April 24	MNS Sponsored Bus Trip to CSNS Convention
April 22-25	CSNS Annual Show, Schaumburg, IL
May 15-16	NOW/WI Valley CC Show, Old Car Show Activity Bldg, 700 E. State St. Iola, WI
May 23	CSNS Educational Seminar at Milw. Clarion Airport Hotel (8 AM-4 PM)
Aug. 11-15	ANA World's Fair of Money Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, IL
October 4	MNS Annual Coin Show Serb Hall – 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave 9 AM-4 PM
Mar 31-Apr 2, 2016	MNS/SSCC sponsored NOW show

Refreshment Schedule

Jan:	Dave Herrewig
Feb:	Don Kaminski
Mar:	Dave H.
Apr:	Tom Dallmann
May:	Stu C.
Jun:	Howard Thorpe
Jul:	Open
Aug:	Open
Sep:	Open
Oct:	Open
Nov:	Leon A.
Dec:	Holiday Party

Milwaukee Numismatic Society
March 19, 2015 Minutes

President Justin Perrault called the 956th meeting of the MNS to order at 7:04 pm on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at Mayfair Mall's lower level community room. There were 21 members and 1 guest in attendance. President Perrault led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Door Prizes
Prizes were won by Joe Paonessa, Howard Thorpe, Tom Dallmann, Bob Giese, Elroy Gilles, and Tom Ralston.

Coin of the Month
Coin of the month was a PCGS-slabbed 1940-S MS63 Mercury dime which sold to Justin Perrault for $30.

Minutes
The minutes for February were accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report
We are financially on solid ground.

Vice President:
No Report.

President: There will be a chartered bus for the April 24 trip to the CSNS show in Schaumberg. Contact Justin or sign up at the next meeting. June 18 will be the club auction.

Scout Clinic: The MNS Boy Scout coin collecting merit badge clinic will be held in conjunction with the SSCC show on March 21, 7 AM at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, located at 13th and College. Volunteers are needed.

Librarian
It's all good.

CSNS Paper Money Seminar
The Spring CSNS educational seminar will be at the Clarion Hotel on May 23. Sign up at the CSNS web site or see Leon S.

New Business Howard Thorpe brought up the idea of combining the SSCC and MNS coin shows. We will explore this idea in the future.

Upcoming shows
SSCC, March 19-21; CICF April 9-12 in Rosemont, IL; NOW in Iola May 15-16.

Exhibits
Tom Snyder, Dave Hunsicker, Bruce Bartelt, Bob Mathieu, Howard Thorpe, and Tom Dallmann all shared parts of their collections with us.

Thye meeting adjourned at 8:24pm

Respectfully submitted, &c, &c, Joe Paonessa

A Penny for Your Thoughts? More Like 1.7 Cents.

By Jeffrey Spaeshott

The U.S. Mint cut the cost of making the penny by nearly a third over the past two years, but it still costs more than a cent to produce.

The Mint recently reported the cost to produce a penny at 1.7 cents in fiscal 2014, down from 2.4 cents in 2011 but still more than face value. That won't change.

"There are no alternative metal compositions that reduce the manufacturing unit cost of the penny below its face value," the Mint's biennial report to Congress said.

The nickel too is dead weight for taxpayers. Production costs stood at 8 cents last year, down from 11 cents. The lower cost per coin is largely a result of rising production and reduced metal costs.

Other coins turn a profit. A dime costs 3.9 cents to make and a quarter 9 cents. All together, the Mint made $25.51 million on seigniorage—the difference between the value of the coin and the cost to make it—despite a $90.5 million drag from the penny and nickel.

Congress in 2010 told the Mint to examine ways to save money on coin production, a mandate that so far has led to detailed testing of alternative metals and production methods, including the use of a laser to produce coin blanks.

The Mint estimates that changing the metallic content of coins could save taxpayers $5 million to $57 million a year, though vending, amusement, laundry and other groups with coin-operated machines warn that it could cost them billions to reconfigure.

The Mint could save $52.9 million if it simply eliminated the penny, as Canada, Australia and other countries have done.

Aside from noting that the penny can't be produced for less than a cent, the report is silent on that topic.

MJS 12/28/2014

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INVESTMENT TRENDS

With gold out of favor, now would be a good time to buy

By KATHLEEN GALLAGHER
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ABOUT THIS

The Journal Sentinel focuses on one Wisconsin money manager or analyst in this weekly feature, looking at a trend that helps investment pros make their decisions.

For many investors, gold has lost its luster.

After climbing above $1,800 an ounce in 2011, the price of this precious metal has plummeted and now trades in a range of about $1,150 an ounce to $1,200 an ounce.

Beadell

Gold faces headwinds as well, said Jon Beadell, research analyst and portfolio manager at A.D. Beadell Investment Counsel Inc. in Mequon.

U.S. investors have seen no real price appreciation for gold in the last few years. Investors get no yield, and other assets could look more attractive if the Federal Reserve raises interest rates later this year, Beadell said.

"Expectations are pretty muted. It's just not in favor," he said.

The exception is outside the U.S., where gold has been a good investment because it is priced in dollars and the value of the dollar has been rising.

But Beadell says there is a case to be made for U.S. investors owning some gold-related assets.

Gold's current price is about the cost of producing it, which ranges from $800 to $1,400 an ounce, depending on the accounting method used, Beadell said. He views that as a floor on the price.

"Now that it is perhaps buoyed by the cost of a production floor, the ceiling might only be limited by human fear and euphoria," Beadell said.

One way to buy gold while it is still out of favor is to seek gold-related closed-end funds that are trading at wide discounts, he said.

Closed-end funds have a fixed number of shares and trade like stocks, usually on a major exchange or market. Closed-end funds are priced throughout the day, rather than just once at the close of trading, as open-end funds are.

Closed-end funds trade at a discount or premium to their net asset value. Investors can check the funds' discounts or premiums at the Closed-End Fund Association website.

Central GoldTrust (GTU, $40.70), Ancaster, Ontario, invests in gold bullion and gold bullion certificates.

This fund has traded recently at what Beadell says is an attractive 7.5% discount to its net asset value.

"If you were to buy gold coins at a shop, the lowest *premium* you'd pay is around 3%," he said.

Central GoldTrust has traded at a premium of as much as 10% when gold prices were high, but Beadell says he doesn't expect such a premium again because of stronger competition from exchange-traded funds. Still, the fund's discount is expected to dissipate if gold gains favor, he said.

A benefit to gold is that it can provide returns that vary from those of stocks, Beadell said. During the recession in 2008 and 2009, gold performed well when stocks didn't.

The biggest risk is what Beadell calls the "capricious whims of humans," whose emotions play into the ups and downs of gold prices.

Central GoldTrust is trading in a 52-week range of $37.22 to $49.85.

ASA Gold and Precious Metals Ltd. (ASA, $10.32), San Mateo, Calif., invests around the world, primarily in the stocks of companies engaged in the exploration, mining or processing of gold, silver, platinum, diamonds and other precious minerals.

This longstanding, actively managed fund has traded recently at about a 7.5% discount to its net asset value, Beadell said.

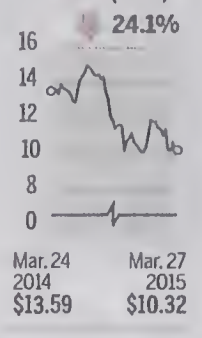
It has about 70% of its assets in the stocks of gold miners. Typically, these stocks offer greater upside than gold when the price of the metal rises, Beadell said.

The biggest risk is that, in the event of a stock market correction, this fund's stocks could also fall, Beadell said. Also, mining companies are notorious for making expensive acquisitions, have suffered historically from mismanagement, and are vulnerable to regulatory changes and skyrocketing operating costs, he said. Production is more challenging because the easy-to-extract ore already has been mined, he added.

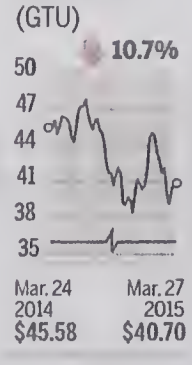
"But, as long as gold is priced near its cost of production, this seems like a reasonable time to begin owning a little bit if you don't already," Beadell said.

ASA Gold and Precious Metals Ltd. trades in a 52-week range of $9.53 to $15.36.

ASA Gold and Precious Metals Limited (ASA)



Central GoldTrust (GTU)



35th MNS Annual Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge Clinic held in Milwaukee

By L. A. Saryan

Thirty-six boy scouts successfully completed their coin collecting merit badges at the 35th annual MNS Boy Scout Coin Collecting merit badge clinic held in Milwaukee March 21.

The clinic, sponsored and organized by the Milwaukee Numismatic Society since 1980, was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel near the Milwaukee Airport, in conjunction with the three-day South Shore Coin Club annual show.

The four-hour Saturday morning program provides boys aged 11 to 14 with a comprehensive overview of numismatics. Topics covered include coin and paper money manufacture, coin basics and terminology, storing a coin collection, coin identification, mints and mint marks, designer's initials, the state quarter program, coin grading, paper currency basics, and an introduction to federal banking system. At the conclusion of the program, all scouts attend the coin show bourse and have a chance to view and purchase coins and currency offered for sale by dealers.

Each scout was presented with a goody bag filled with collectable coins, tokens, paper currency, andf numismatic publications, all donated to MNS by dealers and various organizations. Special gifts were distributed for answering difficult questions. This year, donations were received from the Greater Milwaukee Coin (Brookfield, WI), American Coin (Racine, WI), Bob's OK Coins (Milwaukee), Bob's Coins and Derzor Coins (both West Allis, WI). MNS is extremely grateful to all supporters.

The merit badge clinic was inaugurated 35 years ago by veteran MNS members Lee Hartz and Tom Casper, and substantially enhanced by Bruce Benoit. Principal speaker and clinic coordinator for 2015 was MNS past-president Leon Saryan.

The success of the clinic is the result of a great team effort. Stu Caddell took care of audio visuals. Video clips from a movie documentary entitled the "Money Story" demonstrated the processes used for the production of coins and paper currency. Volunteers checked the boys in, examined their collections, and graded their quizzes. Featured speakers included Roger Lick who discussed coin grading, Dave Hunsicker who spoke about mint marks and designer initials, and Justin Perrault who presented paper money and the United States Federal Reserve system. Clinic coordinator Leon Saryan presented an introduction to coin collecting and described the state quarter program.

Other key volunteers were Gary Bieringer, Henry Javorsky, Betty Petrovick, Josh Whitehall, Dave Herrewig, Bruce Bartelt, Howard Thorpe and Jeff Gaffke.

This year's program was very well-received by the boys and several parents who attended.

MNS is grateful for the cooperation of the South Shore Coin Club, which arranged for the meeting room at the Crowne Plaza in conjunction with their excellent three-day show which ran from March 19-21.

For more information about the Milwaukee Numismatic Society, visit the society's website at www.milwaukeenumismaticsociety.com.

Scenes from the March 21 MNS Boy Scout Merit Badge Clinic

Top two and bottom two photos courtesy of John Wilson, middle two photos by L. A. Saryan.